

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Seth Berglee, on March 24, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Seth Berglee, Chair (R)  
Rep. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)  
Rep. Becky Beard (R)  
Rep. Bryce Bennett (D)  
Rep. Amanda Curtis (D)  
Rep. Edward Greef (R)  
Rep. Jean Price (D)  
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Rep. Scott Staffanson (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)  
Rep. Peggy Webb (R)  
Rep. Susan Webber (D)

##### **Members Excused:**

Rep. Jeff Essmann, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Jacob Bachmeier (D)  
Rep. Greg Hertz (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jessica Riffel, Committee Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 226, 3/16/2017; SB 227, 3/16/2017; SB 242, 3/16/2017  
Executive Action: HB 423

00:01:05 Rep. Bachmeier joined the meeting

**HEARING ON SB 242**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:29 Sen. Sue Malek (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 242, Encourage high schools to administer civics test.

00:01:57 Rep. Webber left the meeting

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:50 Roger Hagan, American Legion of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(edh61a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(edh61a02\)](#)

00:08:41 Duane Schlabach, Self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:14:10 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

00:20:21 Marco Ferro, Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT)

00:21:25 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

00:22:56 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:24:03 Rep. Beard

00:25:50 Sen. Malek

00:26:03 Rep. Beard

00:26:18 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

00:27:49 Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT

00:28:46 Rep. Bachmeier

00:30:20 Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT

00:30:39 Rep. Price

00:31:18 Sen. Malek

00:31:43 Rep. B. Bennett

00:33:42 Sen. Malek

00:34:26 Rep. Staffanson

00:34:41 Sen. Malek

00:35:22 Rep. Funk

00:36:57 Bob Vogel, MTSBA

00:38:38 Rep. Anderson

00:39:56 Rep. Vinton

00:41:28 Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT

00:42:02 Rep. Greef

00:43:19 Sen. Malek

00:43:32 Rep. Staffanson

00:44:04 Duane Schlabach, Self

00:44:49 Rep. Beard

00:45:30 Kirk Miller, SAM

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:46:17 Sen. Malek

**HEARING ON SB 226**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:48:36 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 226, Generally revise summer school bus transportation laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:52:16 Scott Walter, East Helena School Board  
 00:54:52 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)  
 00:57:18 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Speech-Language and Hearing Association (MSHA)  
 00:58:42 Ron Whitmoyer, East Helena Public School (EHPS)  
 01:02:35 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)  
 01:03:26 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:04:09 Rep. Vinton  
 01:04:42 Ron Whitmoyer, EHPS  
 01:05:14 Rep. Greef  
 01:05:56 Ron Whitmoyer, EHPS  
 01:06:19 Rep. Beard  
 01:06:51 Bob Vogel, MTSBA  
 01:07:57 Chair Berglee  
 01:08:17 Rep. P. Webb  
 01:08:43 Sen. Cohenour

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:10:10 Sen. Cohenour

**HEARING ON SB 227**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:10:54 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 227, Revise state school transportation reimbursement laws.

[EXHIBIT\(edh61a03\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:12:06 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)  
 01:14:23 Scott Walter, East Helena School Board  
 01:14:50 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA)  
 01:15:10 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:15:37 Sen. Cohenour

01:16:13 Recessed

01:23:43 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 423**

01:23:59 **Motion:** Rep. Funk moved that **HB 423 DO PASS.**

01:24:17 **Motion:** Rep. Funk moved that **HB 423 BE AMENDED.**

**EXHIBIT**(edh61a04)

**Discussion:**

01:24:34 Chair Berglee

01:25:01 Rep. Schreiner

01:25:59 Chair Berglee

01:26:25 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-8 by roll call vote with Rep. Bachmeier, Rep. Bennett, Rep. Curtis, Rep. Funk, Rep. Price, Rep. Schreiner, Rep. Sheldon-Galloway and Rep. Webber voting no. Rep. Essmann, Rep. G. Hertz and Rep. Webber voted by proxy.

01:27:30 **Motion:** Rep. Funk moved that **HB 423 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

01:27:43 Rep. Staffanson

01:29:03 Rep. P. Webb

01:29:29 Chair Berglee

01:29:59 Rep. B. Bennett

01:32:37 Rep. Price

01:34:54 Chair Berglee

01:35:54 Rep. Price

01:36:03 Chair Berglee

01:36:36 Rep. Price

01:36:43 Rep. Beard

01:39:05 Rep. Schreiner

01:43:20 Rep. Anderson

01:44:08 Chair Berglee

01:45:22 Rep. Funk

01:46:50 Chair Berglee

01:49:03 Rep. Schreiner

01:50:14 Chair Berglee

01:50:53 Rep. B. Bennett

01:51:24 Chair Berglee

01:53:04 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-11 by roll call vote with Rep. Berglee, Rep. Essmann, Rep. Greef, Rep. G. Hertz, Rep. Staffanson and Rep. P. Webb voting aye. Rep. Essmann, Rep. G. Hertz and Rep. Webber voted by proxy.

01:54:09 **Motion:** Rep. Funk moved that **HB 423 BE TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED**. Motion was without objection.

01:54:28 Chair Berglee

01:54:52 Rep. Funk

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 01:55:44

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Jessica Riffel, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([edh61aad.pdf](#))